

PCT

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
International Bureau



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁵ : A61K 31/35	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 94/23716 (43) International Publication Date: 27 October 1994 (27.10.94)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US94/04189		(81) Designated States: AT, AU, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CZ, DE, DK, ES, FI, GB, HU, JP, KP, KR, KZ, LK, LU, LV, MG, MN, MW, NL, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SI, SK, TT, UA, UZ, VN, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
(22) International Filing Date: 15 April 1994 (15.04.94)		
(30) Priority Data: 08/049,006 16 April 1993 (16.04.93) US		
(71) Applicant: TUFTS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE [US/US]; 136 Harrison Avenue, Boston, MA 02111 (US).		Published <i>With international search report.</i>
(72) Inventors: GORBACH, Sherwood, L.; 429 Beacon Street, Chestnut Hill, MA 02115 (US). GOLDIN, Barry, R.; 38 Adella Avenue, West Newton, MA 02165 (US). ADLER-CREUTZ, Herman; Department of Clinical Chemistry, University of Helsinki, Meilahti Hospital, FIN-00290 Helsinki (FI).		
(74) Agent: CLARK, Paul, T.; Fish & Richardson, 225 Franklin Street, Boston, MA 02110-2804 (US).		

(54) Title: METHOD FOR TREATMENT OF MENOPAUSAL AND PREMENSTRUAL SYMPTOMS

(57) Abstract

A method is provided for preventing or treating symptoms of menopause, premenstrual syndrome, or a condition resulting from reduced levels of endogenous estrogen, by administering to the woman an effective amount of an isoflavonoid. The invention also features a therapeutic dietary product, containing isoflavonoids, for preventing or treating symptoms of conditions resulting from reduced or altered levels of endogenous estrogen.

FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AT	Austria	GB	United Kingdom	MR	Mauritania
AU	Australia	GE	Georgia	MW	Malawi
BB	Barbados	GN	Guinea	NE	Niger
BE	Belgium	GR	Greece	NL	Netherlands
BF	Burkina Faso	HU	Hungary	NO	Norway
BG	Bulgaria	IE	Ireland	NZ	New Zealand
BJ	Benin	IT	Italy	PL	Poland
BR	Brazil	JP	Japan	PT	Portugal
BY	Belarus	KE	Kenya	RO	Romania
CA	Canada	KG	Kyrgyzstan	RU	Russian Federation
CF	Central African Republic	KP	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	SD	Sudan
CG	Congo	KR	Republic of Korea	SE	Sweden
CH	Switzerland	KZ	Kazakhstan	SI	Slovenia
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	LI	Liechtenstein	SK	Slovakia
CM	Cameroon	LK	Sri Lanka	SN	Senegal
CN	China	LU	Luxembourg	TD	Chad
CS	Czechoslovakia	LV	Latvia	TG	Togo
CZ	Czech Republic	MC	Monaco	TJ	Tajikistan
DE	Germany	MD	Republic of Moldova	TT	Trinidad and Tobago
DK	Denmark	MG	Madagascar	UA	Ukraine
ES	Spain	ML	Mali	US	United States of America
FI	Finland	MN	Mongolia	UZ	Uzbekistan
FR	France			VN	Viet Nam
GA	Gabon				

- 1 -

METHOD FOR TREATMENT OF MENOPAUSAL
AND PREMENSTRUAL SYMPTOMS
Background of the Invention

5 The present invention relates to therapies for the prevention and treatment of menopausal and premenstrual symptoms.

It has long been recognized that the sharp reduction in endogenous estrogen levels which occurs 10 prior to menopause causes a variety of unpleasant symptoms, e.g., hot flashes, nausea, nervousness, and malaise. Currently, the symptoms of menopause are treated by estrogen replacement therapy, which has recently been shown to increase the risk of certain types 15 of cancer, such as endometrial cancer and breast cancer.

Changes in levels of endogenous estrogen may also be responsible for "premenstrual syndrome", a condition occurring in younger women prior to menstruation.

Premenstrual symptoms are treated with a variety of 20 hormonal and nonhormonal therapies, which may cause side effects. Safer and more effective therapies for both conditions continue to be sought.

Summary of the Invention

The inventors have found that isoflavonoids, which 25 are constituents of soy beans and other plants, effectively reduce the symptoms of conditions which are caused by reduced or altered levels of endogenous estrogen, e.g., menopause, and premenstrual syndrome.

Without being bound by any theory, it is believed that 30 the isoflavonoids bind to estrogen receptors, and thus exert an estrogenic response. These compounds, which are present naturally in soy-based and other plant-based foods, are safe and cause no significant side-effects.

Isoflavonoids which may be administered according to the 35 invention include genistein, daidzein, Biochanin A,

- 2 -

formononetin, O-desmethylangolensin, and equol; these may be administered alone or in combination.

Accordingly, in one aspect, the invention features a method of preventing or treating the symptoms of 5 menopause, premenstrual syndrome, or a condition resulting from reduced levels of endogenous estrogen, by administering to the woman an effective amount of at least one isoflavonoid. The isoflavonoid may be administered in any suitable form, e.g., in the form of a 10 plant extract rich in isoflavonoids or in the form of a purified or synthesized isoflavonoid.

In another aspect, the invention features a therapeutic dietary product for preventing or treating symptoms resulting from reduced or altered levels of 15 endogenous estrogen. The dietary product preferably includes a soy extract containing enriched isoflavonoids, provided in a palatable food carrier, e.g., a confectionary bar, biscuit, cereal or beverage.

Other features and advantages of the invention 20 will be apparent from the Description of the Preferred Embodiments thereof, and from the claims.

Description of the Preferred Embodiments

Isoflavonoids are naturally occurring substances, found primarily in soy beans. These compounds are also 25 found in lower concentrations in many other plants. Isoflavonoids can thus be administered to a patient by placing the patient on a diet containing high levels of soy-based food products, e.g., tofu, miso, soybeans, aburage, atuage and koridofu, or other plant products 30 rich in isoflavonoids.

These products may not be readily available in all geographic regions (most of these foods are served predominantly in Japan), and are not be palatable to many women, particularly those accustomed to Western-style 35 food.

- 3 -

Accordingly, an isoflavonoid-containing fraction can be extracted from a soy or plant product. It is preferred that the isoflavonoids be extracted and concentrated from soy bean or soy powder. Isoflavonoids 5 are also available commercially in substantially pure form. The concentrated isoflavonoid is preferably included in a food carrier to form a dietary product. Any type of palatable carrier may be used, but, as the isoflavonoid concentrate has a strong flavor, it is 10 preferred that the carrier include suitable flavorings to impart a different, more palatable flavor. The dietary product may be any type of food product, e.g., a confectionary bar, biscuit, cereal or beverage.

It is preferred that the dietary product contain 15 at least 30 mg/serving total isoflavonoids. The isoflavonoid concentrate included in the dietary product preferably includes a blend primarily comprised of genistein and daidzein. The concentrate typically also contains lower levels of other isoflavonoids. Most 20 preferably, the dietary product contains from about 10 to 30 mg/serving, more preferably about 20 mg/serving of genistein, and from about 5 to 10 mg/serving, more preferably about 7 mg/serving of daidzein. Preferably, a dietary product containing the preferred dosage of 25 isoflavonoids would be consumed at least once per day, preferably 1 to 2 times per day depending upon the severity of the woman's symptoms.

While it is preferred that the isoflavonoid be administered in the form of a dietary product, if desired 30 the isoflavonoid could be administered, preferably in similar dosages, in medicament form, e.g., mixed with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier to form a tablet, powder or syrup.

- 4 -

Example

The connection between diet and estrogen excretion was studied in Japanese women and men, and in a few children. The women's mean age was 50.4 (SD 18.0) years 5 and they were all from a small village south of Kyoto and consumed a traditional Japanese low-fat diet.

Isoflavonoid excretion in the urine was measured in a group of three men, three women, and three children living in Kyoto and consuming the traditional diet. We 10 found a very high excretion of isoflavonoids in the urine of these subjects. The mean values were almost identical in the two groups and especially high excretion was found for genistein (maximum 15.5 umol per 24h in a man) and two other isoflavonoids, daidzein and equol (Table 1). 15 All these compounds bind to estrogen receptors and have weak estrogenic activity. The excretion of the isoflavonoids in urine of the Japanese women was much higher than previously determined levels in American and Finnish women (Table 1). Excretion was high in children 20 as in middle-aged and old people. These compounds were excreted in 100-fold to 1000-fold higher amounts than the levels of endogenous estrogens excreted by normal omnivorous women consuming a western or oriental diet (Table 1).

25 The excretion of the isoflavonoids in urine was associated with intake of soy products such as tofu, miso, aburage, atuage, koridofu, soybeans, and boiled beans.

It is known that Japanese women have a lower 30 incidence of menopausal symptoms and premenstrual symptoms than the American and Finnish women.

- 5 -

Table 1

Urinary isoflavonoid or estrogen (nmol/day)	Japanese/ Oriental	American	Finnish
Genistein	3440 (n=3)	..	32.1 (n=12)
Daidzein	2600 (n=10)	216 (n=21)	40.5 (n=12)
Equol	2600 (n=10)	62.8 (n=21)	44.2 (n=12)
Oestrone (postmenstrual)	4.48 (n=9)	..	4.48 (n=10)
Oestradiol (postmenstrual)	0.76 (n=9)	..	0.94 (n=10)
Oestriol (postmenstrual)	4.48 (n=9)	..	4.44 (n=10)

- 6 -

CLAIMS

1. Use of an isoflavonoid in the preparation of a medicament for preventing or treating a medical condition in a woman caused by reduced or altered levels of 5 endogenous estrogen.
2. The use of claim 1, wherein said isoflavonoid is selected from the group consisting of genistein, daidzein, Biochanin A, formononetin, O-desmethylangolensin and equol.
- 10 3. The use of claim 1 wherein said isoflavonoid is in a unit dosage of at least 30 mg.
4. The use of claim 1 wherein genistein and daidzein isoflavonoids are present in said medicament.
- 15 5. The use of claim 4 wherein said isoflavonoid comprises from about 10 to 30 mg genistein and from about 5 to 10 mg daidzein.
6. The use of claim 1 wherein said medicament is in the form of a dietary product.
- 20 7. The use of claim 6 wherein said dietary product contains at least 30 mg/serving of said isoflavonoid.
8. The use of claim 6 wherein said dietary product is a confectionery bar containing said isoflavonoid.
- 25 9. The use of claim 6 wherein said dietary product is a cereal containing said isoflavonoid.

- 7 -

10. The method of claim 6 wherein said dietary product is a biscuit containing said isoflavonoid.

11. The method of claim 6 wherein said dietary product is a beverage containing said isoflavonoid.

5 12. A dietary product for preventing or treating symptoms of menopause, premenstrual syndrome, or conditions resulting from reduced or altered levels of endogenous estrogen, comprising at least one isoflavonoid provided in a non-soy-based palatable food carrier.

10 13. The dietary product of claim 12 comprising genistein and daidzein isoflavonoids.

14. The dietary product of claim 12 wherein the food carrier is a confectionery bar.

15 15. The dietary product of claim 12 wherein the food carrier is a cereal.

16. The dietary product of claim 12 wherein the food carrier is a biscuit.

17. The dietary product of claim 12 wherein the food carrier is a beverage.

20 18. The dietary product of claim 12 wherein the food carrier contains an amount of the isoflavonoid which is effective in reducing the symptoms.

19. The dietary product of claim 18 comprising at least about 30 mg isoflavonoids per serving.

- 8 -

20. The dietary product of claim 13 wherein said dietary product comprises from about 10 to 30 mg/serving genistein and from about 5 to 10 mg/serving daidzein.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US94/04189

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(S) : A61K 31/35-
US CL : 514/456, 899

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 514/456, 899

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

NONE

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

APS AND CAS ONLINE: ISOFLAVIN?, PMS, ESTRO?, PREMENSTRUAL

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US, A, 3,864,362 (FEUER ET AL.) 04 FEBRUARY 1975, COLUMN 1, LINE 33 - COLUMN 2, LINE 44.	1-20
---		-----
Y		1-20

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"E" earlier document published on or after the international filing date	"Y"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"&"	document member of the same patent family
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means		
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
24 MAY 1994	JUL 20 1994

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230	Authorized officer KIMBERLY JORDAN Telephone No. (703) 308-1235
---	---

Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)(July 1992)*

THIS PAGE BLANK (USPTO)